

3/13/2022

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in **support of**:

- S.B. No. 387: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

I am writing **in opposition to** the following bills:

- S.B. No. 365: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- H.B. No. 5418: AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- H.B. No. 5417: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- S.B. No. 386: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.

I live in Bloomfield and have an 8-year-old son in Laurel Elementary School. I work for Prudential Financial. I am a member of Riverfront Family Church in Hartford which is part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

Regarding car thefts and youth crime, I can see that the following is true based on the available data:

- The vast majority of car thefts go unsolved.
- Of the car thefts that are solved, most of these crimes are committed by adults.
- There has been an increase in car thefts happening in some suburban neighborhoods with a few tragic, high-profile incidents involving youths.

With these things in mind, I am opposed to criminal justice legislation that targets youths, lacks sound data, and is not aligned with the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC). Overall, I think Connecticut is doing a good job when it comes to juvenile justice and we should try to continue to strive to make improvements in alignment with the recommendations of the JJPOC. We should avoid knee-jerk policy changes that would result in more youth (and in particular more black and brown youth) and families facing extra burdens from the criminal justice system including GPS monitoring, being detained for extended periods, or having to appear in court without sufficient time to make preparations or seek counsel.

I oppose the above legislative proposals, with the exception of SB 387 which comes out of the JJPOC, through which all of these proposals should be vetted. I believe the other bills are largely rooted in a misinformation campaign, lack sound analysis, and will lead to more of our youth becoming system involved.

GHIAA congregations stand ready to defeat policies that are rooted in racist rhetoric and faulty data. To learn more, please watch this 7 minute video on GHIAA's position: <https://vimeo.com/686784926>

Sincerely,

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